

COL. RIFE ENDS ARSENAL DUTIES

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director of ammunition plants, located now at the Joliet Arsenal, will assume command of the arsenal in addition to his present duties.

A GRADUATE of Purdue university in mechanical and petroleum engineering, Col. Rife took graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Before coming to the local ordnance plants, he was executive officer at the Baytown, Tex., toluol plant, commanding officer at the Missouri Ordnance Works at Louisiana, Mo., and in August, 1942, was called to St. Louis to aid Col. T. C. Gerber in the organization of the office of the field director of ammunition plants. He later became executive officer to Col. Gerber, who was first commanding officer at the two munition plants here.

A native of San Antonio, he was a consulting petroleum engineer in civilian life. He wears the army Legion of Merit badge and the Army Commendation Service ribbon.

Col. Rife's wife and two sons, Byron, Jr., and Frank Nicholas, are anxiously awaiting the forthcoming reunion with the army officer.

IN A FARWELL message to the workers and army officers at the arsenal, Col. Rife said:

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the people of Joliet and surrounding areas for the fine co-operation and help given me during my tour of duty at EOP, KOW, and Joliet Arsenal. It was the whole-hearted support of the communities and the people who worked here which helped establish such outstanding production and safety records at the local munition plants. The records made here were a decided factor in the Allied victory during World War II, since a great portion of the ammunition for the Allies was supplied from this area."

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Officer Will Leave Tomorrow For Home At San Antonio, Tex.

Col. Byron Rife, who has been commanding officer of the Elwood Ordnance Plant and Kankakee Ordnance Works since May 4, 1943, will leave tomorrow for his home in San Antonio,



COL. BYRON RIFE

Tex., where he will be separated from service.

Also the commanding officer of Joliet Arsenal since December, 1945, when EOP and KOW were combined into one unit, Col. Rife plans to re-enter the oil and gas industry in San Antonio.

Col. R. R. Klanderman, field

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